

July 2005

NORTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Major Richard Varner

## Overview

Northern Command traffic operations continue to be plagued with staffing shortages due to training, light duty, military assignments, temporary duty assignments, transfers and retirements.

The Northern Command handled a total of 411 crashes as compared to 385 last month. Property crashes increased by 1.5%, injury crashes increased by 17.2% and fatal crashes increased by 50%. Six people were killed in fatal accidents with two of the victims being 16 years of age. There is still a significant amount of road construction in the Reno and Carson area that continues to influence the overall crash rate.

DUI arrests from crashes continue their upward trend; however the increase was only by 3 this month. Pre-accident DUI arrests are up by 6.6% over last year but were down by 3.6% over last month. In August, the Command will be staffing additional shifts with grant funded DUI enforcement personnel. Additionally, we will be participating in a DUI checkpoint with Sparks PD in September.

The Northern Command's total enforcement violations increased 15.5% from 4517 to 5218 violations as compared to the same period last year. However, total violations decreased slightly from last month by 0.5%. As compared to last month, speed violations increased by 6.8%, hazardous moving violations decreased 13%, occupant restraint violations decreased 24% and total person arrested decreased 7.4%.

The Commercial Enforcement Section's overall activity was, for the second month in a row, higher than the previous month. The most notable increases are as follows: the section completed 1119 vehicle inspections for an increase of 53.3%, 450 safety violation citations were issued for an increase of 26.4%, 3543 safety violation repair orders were issued for an increase of 71.8%, a total of 102 drivers were placed out of service for an increase of 61.9%, 820 dyed fuel inspections were conducted for an increase of 57.7% and seven dyed fuel citations were issued for an increase of 75%.

The men and women of the Northern Command are commended for their continued work in striving to provide safe roadways for the motoring public.

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NORTHERN COMMAND

## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	Jul-05	Jul-04	% Change	Jun-05	% Change
Total Crashes	411	390	5.4%	385	7.0%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	269	258	4.3%	265	1.5%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	136	129	5.4%	116	18.1%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	6	3	100.0%	4	50.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	21	19	10.5%	18	16.7%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	6	3	66.7%	4	25.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	1	-100.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	1	-100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	2	0	200.0%	1	100.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0	3	-300.0%	1	-100.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	3	0	300.0%	1	200.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	31	20	55.0%	20	55.0%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	24	13	84.6%	18	33.3%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	6	6	0.0%	2	200.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	1	1	0.0%	1	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.5%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 5.1%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 0.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 7.5%

### CRASH ANALYSIS:

Crashes were up in all categories. Total crashes increased by 21 crashes over last year and by 26 crashes over last month.

Reno and Carson areas continue to have significant amounts of road construction which has influenced the crash rate. Ongoing construction in the "Spaghetti Bowl" and North McCarran/Clear Acre area create significant traffic problems in the Reno area with major congestion occurring during the commuter traffic hours.

Reno Urban Traffic experienced a 6.2% increase in traffic crashes over last month. The Reno urban area continues to experience unprecedented growth however staffing levels failed to keep up. As traffic crashes continue to increase in the Reno area over the past few years, staffing levels have been reduced significantly. Reno Urban Traffic trends indicate the majority of day shift crashes occurring on Mondays and Wednesdays during the morning or lunch hour commute. Swing shift crash trends indicate higher crash rate on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the late afternoon commuter hours.

The majority of Reno urban traffic crashes continue to occur in the McCarran loop and during commuter hours. Urban traffic is looking at creative ways to increase the officer presence such as using "Drone cars" during the day as well as deploying the radar trailer in high speed or accident locations. Reno Troopers will also continue using the ADAPT truck to target aggressive drivers.

Fernley/Fallon area experienced the same trend as Reno Urban traffic, with overall accidents going up. Total crashes increased by 16.4%. There were two fatal accidents in the Fernley/Fallon area last month.

Carson/Tahoe/Minden also experienced an increase in crashes of 4.3% from 117 to 122 crashes. The CTM area also had three fatal accidents this month. Two of the fatal accidents handled by CTM Troopers involved 16 year old victims.

Troopers will continue to work accident reduction and prevention programs, targeting the accident causing violations in the high accident locations during the high accident times. Accident causing violations remain following too close as a significant number of crashes are rear-end collisions.



## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	Jul-05	Jul-04	% Change	Jun-05	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	21	19	10.5%	18	16.7%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	81	76	6.6%	84	-3.6%
Other Arrests	420	342	22.8%	466	-9.9%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	189	159	18.9%	204	-7.4%
Speed violations	2094	2279	-8.1%	1961	6.8%
Hazardous moving violations	651	739	-11.9%	748	-13.0%
Occupant restraint violations *	308	309	0.3%	405	-24.0%
Total violations [above violations included]	5218	4517	15.5%	5246	-0.5%
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>					
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	52	15	246.7%	53	-1.9%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	47	28	67.9%	63	-25.4%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	1119	537	108.4%	730	53.3%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	1	0	100.0%	1	0.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	450	250	80.0%	356	26.4%
Total safety violations -- repair order	3543	1216	191.4%	2062	71.8%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	197	67	194.0%	153	28.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	102	30	240.0%	63	61.9%
Total school buses inspected	308	136	126.5%	52	492.3%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	127	23	452.2%	25	408.0%
Total trucks weighed	209	152	37.5%	160	30.6%
Total overweight citations	39	14	178.6%	36	8.3%
Total dyed fuel inspections	820	382	114.7%	520	57.7%
Total dyed fuel citations	7	3	133.3%	4	75.0%

\* Seat belt and child restraint

\*\* Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

### FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

Overall enforcement was down only slightly at -0.5% overall, however were up significantly by 15.5% over the same time last year. Northern Command Troopers continue to put forth an excellent level of productivity despite the significant staffing shortages.

Reno Urban traffic activity was down by -10.6% over last month, but was up by 8.3% over last year. Fallon/Fernley traffic activity was up by 7% over last month, and also increased 30.9% over last year. Carson/Tahoe/Minden enforcement trends were also up in both comparisons at 9.4% over last year, and 12.8% over last month.

**ENFORCEMENT RATIOS PER OFFICER**

Total Crashes	9.90
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	6.48
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	3.28
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	0.14
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	0.51

DUI arrests from crashes ##	0.51
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	1.95
Other Arrests	10.11
Total persons arrested (DUI included) ##	4.55
Speed violations	50.43
Hazardous moving violations	15.68
Occupant restraint violations* ##	7.42
Total violations [above violations included]	125.66
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>	
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	1.25
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	1.13
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	26.95
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	0.02
Total safety violations -- citation	10.84
Total safety violations -- repair order	85.32
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	4.74
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	2.46
Total school buses inspected	7.42
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	3.06
Total trucks weighed	5.03
Total overweight citations	0.94
Total dyed fuel inspections	19.53

## **COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

During the month of July, the Commercial Enforcement Section assisted the traffic section on 12 collisions and completed two collision investigations. Five of these collisions involved commercial motor vehicles.

The commercial enforcement section completed 13 check-site operations that generated 362 inspections. In addition, 811 level II/III inspections were completed during roving enforcement.

The Northern Command was unable to use Pre-pass due to construction on westbound IR-80 near the Mustang Check site.

Northern command Commercial Enforcement teamed up with California Highway Patrol to conduct a joint check-site operation at the Long Valley Agriculture facility. The Long Valley Agriculture facility is located in California on US 395 approximately 5 miles north of the California/Nevada Border. During the operation, 45 commercial vehicles were inspected.

Northern command was recently allocated rollover funds for strike-team commercial efforts. Four strike team operations were conducted. The strike-team operations generated 112 inspections, 366 mechanical repair orders (MRO's), and 30 citations. There were also 29 out of service violations, 22 from vehicles and 7 from drivers.

In July, the Commercial Section's overall activity was, for the second month in a row, higher than the previous month. The increase in activity was in the areas of arrests, safety inspections and MRO's.

During the month of July, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Inspectors (CVSI's) completed the spring bi-annual inspection for all county school buses in Northern Command. The spring inspection program identified that Washoe County School District had an unacceptable out-of-service rate. The commercial Section is in the process of scheduling a meeting with County officials to discuss safety deficiencies. The CVSI's have also started the fall bi-annual school bus inspection process.

## **AIR OPERATIONS**

The Northern Command plane flew a total of 67.2 hours during the month of July, a 16% increase over the same period last year. Ten of thirteen scheduled enforcement missions were flown; one was cancelled due to a lack of manpower, one by Lt. Stewart to move my office and one due to unscheduled maintenance. Six missions were flown in the Northern Command; four were flown in the Central Command.

Total enforcement for the month was 323 contacts/citations. Included in this total are eight hazardous moving citations, ten seat belt citations and one warrant arrest.

Two personnel transports were accomplished; two civilian employees from headquarters were transported to and from Elko for the commercial enforcement commander's meeting.

Two prisoner transports were also accomplished; one from Ely to Reno and one from Carson City to Winnemucca.

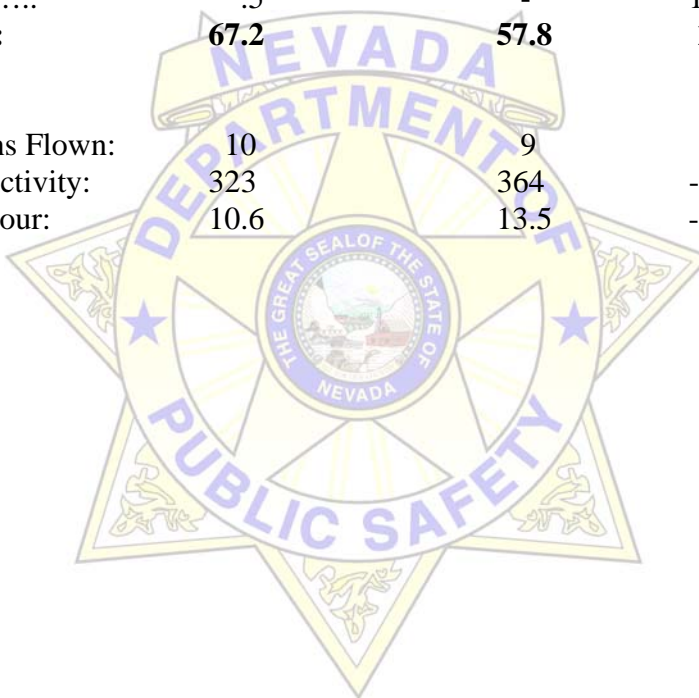
The plane was transported to Chaparral Avionics at the Minden airport on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> for installation of a new transponder. A mixture control cable broke on the 26<sup>th</sup>, necessitating cancellation of an enforcement mission for repair.

Trooper Wes Brown passed his FAA Commercial Pilot check ride on the 18<sup>th</sup>. He now meets all requirements to pilot Air 1 as a backup pilot. I have submitted the appropriate documentation to Risk Management for him to be included on our State aircraft insurance policy. Once this has been accomplished, I shall petition command to have him appointed and utilized as a backup pilot.

Below is a comparative summary of the flight operations in the Northern and Central commands for the month of July, 2005.

<b>Total Hours Flown</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>Change</b>
Time over sites.....	30.5	26.8	14%
Time enroute to sites.....	18.1	11.5	57%
Prisoner Transports.....(2)	8.5	(4) 15.5	-45%
Personnel Transports...(2)	5.8	-	100%
Training.....	3.8	4.0	- 5%
Maintenance.....	.5	-	100%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>16%</b>

Enforcement Missions Flown:	10	9	11%
Total Enforcement Activity:	323	364	-11%
Activity Per Flight Hour:	10.6	13.5	-21%



**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	Jul-05	Jul-04	% Change	Jun-05	% Change
COMMUNICATION CENTER					
Radio Transmissions	92,487	101,760	-9.1%	107,269	-13.8%
CAD incidents	12,594	10,247	22.9%	13,085	-3.8%
FRONT OFFICE					
Accident Reports Processed	432	336	28.57%	337	28.19%
Arrest Reports Processed	201	157	28.02%	176	14.20%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	17	UNK	UNK	15	13.33%
Office Accident Reports Taken	24	21	14.29%	23	4.35%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	574	378	51.85%	554	3.61%
Warrants Entered	258	350	-26.28%	301	14.29%
Warrants Cleared	670	829	-19.18%	827	18.98%
Warrants Validated	175	716	-75.56%	151	15.89%
Citations Processed	3932	3411	15.27%	2598	51.35%
Extradition / Transports					
EVIDENCE					
New Cases Submitted					
New Items Submitted					
Items Disposed					

**FRONT OFFICE**

The number of accident reports processed increased by 28.19% to 432 this period. 201 arrest reports were processed. Office reports taken increased by 4.35% and 17 incident reports were taken by officers this month. The accident request desk copied and disseminated 339 reports this period; an increase of 43%!

Compensatory time increased by 10 hours. Eight hours of training was provided to the new AAIL in Advantage Navigation and timesheets as she is the backup timekeeper for the Region. 13.5 hours of overtime was used for coverage of lunches due to annual leave absences. Backlogged citation entry is through March 4<sup>th</sup>. The AAIL position which was filled by a transfer from Dispatch has been trained in film duties, deposit duties, and processing local accidents for dissemination. We are placing all citations with CAD numbers in with the corresponding reports. This keeps in line with the "one-number" filing system, making it easier to copy everything necessary for court at one time if an officer receives a subpoena.

**COURT WARRANTS**

Citations processed increased by 51% from last month. The staff is current with entering warrants through the letter "G" for the month of June. Warrants received increased by only 3.6%, while validations increased by 16%. The new JL Client system was introduced this reporting period. The screen's response time is slower than the previously used CTC Bridge.

Four screens were able to be utilized in the past to enter warrants while performing other activities such as clearing warrants. The new system allows only two screens which doubles the time to process the work. This accounts for the lag time in warrant entry.

### ***DISPATCH***

The Northern Command Communication center currently has two vacant Public Safety Dispatcher positions. However, with 3 personnel actively in training, the Center is effectively down 5 positions. There are currently 4 people with backgrounds in process to fill the remaining positions.

Total work hours lost increased by 39.3% since last month primarily due to an increase in sick leave as two employees sadly incurred deaths in the family.

Compensatory overtime decreased by 32.1% and paid overtime decreased by 15.7% when compared to the same period last year. Overtime as a whole decreased by 18.1% when compared to the same period last year and increased by 48.1% when compared to last month. The decrease from last year is primarily due to the increased use of flexible scheduling and day off trading. The increase over last month is primarily due to annual leave and vacant position coverage. The coverage of annual leave accounted for 51% of overtime, followed by 25% for the sick leave and 11% for vacant positions.

### ***PUBLIC INFORMATION***

The Northern Command PIO was off the month of July. Four Northern Command Sergeants took the opportunity to be trained in PIO operations and to handle the PIO duties. Northern Command supported the “Drivers Edge” training with representatives from the Traffic Section as well as the Mobile Command Center. We also provided the Mobile Command Center for a motorcycle safety PIO event in Carson City at DPS headquarters. Troopers continued to conduct drivers’ education presentations at multiple Washoe County Schools during the month of July as well.

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